

Western Association of Writers collection L217

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Books and Manuscripts
140 North Senate Avenue
Indianapolis, Indiana, 46204
317-232-3671

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Summary Information

Repository	Rare Books and Manuscripts
Creator	Western Association of Writers.
Title	Western Association of Writers collection
Date	1886-1910
Extent	0.5 Cubic feet 1 manuscript box and 1 volume
Language	English
Text [Volume]	238

Preferred Citation

Western Association of Writers collection, Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library

Historical Note

The Western Association of Writers was organized in June 1886 after a gathering of writers met in the Plymouth Church in Indianapolis, Indiana. The original name chosen had been the American Association of Writers, but the group felt that the organization was to serve a specific region and not be national. The majority of members were from Indiana, but several members were from other Midwestern states such as Illinois, Missouri, and Ohio. The object of the association was to "cultivate the highest and purest style of literary work, and to encourage and assist in the development of a true and healthy American literature."

The WAW held one meeting a year. All but one meeting took place in Indiana. From 1889 until 1904 the WAW held its annual meeting at Winona Lake near Warsaw, Indiana. The last full WAW meeting seems to have taken place in 1904, though in later years smaller WAW groups got together until at least 1908.

Notable members included: George Cottman, Ida Husted Haper, Benjamin Parker, Amos Butler, Meredith Nicholson, James Whitcomb Riley, Maurice Thompson, Will Cumback, Sarah T. Bolton, John Clark Ridpath, Booth Tarkington, and Lew Wallace.

Sources:

Cottman, George S. "The Western Association of Writers." *Indiana Magazine of History*. September 1933: 187-197. Weygand, James L. *Winona Holiday: The Story of the Western Association of Writers*. Nappanee, Indiana: Maestro Books, 1948.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of some of the papers of the Western Association of Writers for the years 1886-1910, with the bulk of the coverage from 1896 to 1899. Included here are the Articles of Association and bylaws, correspondence between the officers and members (majority of the collection), programs from some of their events, newspaper clippings concerning the WAW, miscellaneous WAW papers which include lists of officers, and miscellaneous pamphlets relating to the organization.

The volumes contain meeting minutes, notes about the Annual Banquet, correspondence, receipts, bylaws, treasurers reports, member lists, and newspaper clippings.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged by subject.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Rare Books and Manuscripts

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Legal title, copyright, and literary rights reside with Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library, Indianapolis, IN. All requests to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted to Rare Books and Manuscripts.

Custodial History

This collection was received by Rare Books and Manuscripts as a donation.

Accruals

No further additions are expected.

Processing Information

Collection processing completed 2004/11 by Elizabeth M. Wilkinson. EAD finding aid created 2016/05/11 by Lauren Patton.

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Western Association of Writers.

Personal Name(s)

- Cottman, George S. (George Streibe), 1857-1941
- Nicholson, Meredith, 1866-1947
- Riley, James Whitcomb (1849-1916)
- Tarkington, Booth, 1869-1946
- Thompson, Maurice (1844-1901)
- Wallace, Lew, 1827-1905

Subject(s)

- American literature--19th century
- Indiana--Literature and folklore

Collection Inventory

	Box	Folder
Articles of association and bylaws, 1887	1	1
Correspondence, 1891-1895 July	1	2
Correspondence, 1895 Aug.-Dec.	1	3
Correspondence, 1896 Jan.-Apr.	1	4
Correspondence, 1896 June-1897	1	5
Correspondence, 1898	1	6
Correspondence, 1899-1907	1	7
Miscellaneous papers, 1895-1900's	1	8
Programs, 1892-1897, 1902	1	9
Newspaper clippings, 1886-1910	1	10
Miscellaneous pamphlets, ca. 1887-1890's	1	11
Clippings and programs scrapbook, 1889-1897	1	12

Minutebook, 1891-1897	1	13
Minutebook, 1898-1901	1	14